

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 64

May 2017

No. 5



Calendar

Fri., Apr. 21	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby	Thurs., May 4	Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting, Town Office, 10 am; GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., Apr. 23	GPFS presents <i>Labyrinth Journeys</i> , documentary featuring Vickie and Martin Baily's labyrinth, 3:30 pm, Town Hall; free (see p 2)	Sat., May 6	GIVES, PO lobby, 9 am–12 pm; Townwide Yard Sale, 8 am–1 pm, around town (see p 3)
Mon., Apr. 24	New exhibit, Penn Place Gallery, Tammi Trocki, photography, till May 20 (see p 6)	Mon., May 8	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; GP-CAN mtg., 7:30 pm, home of Joanne Schmader (see p 5)
Wed., Apr. 26	Citizens Assoc. mtg., Town Hall, 7 pm; Candidates Forum	Tues., May 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm
Fri., Apr. 28	Film Society, <i>Harvey</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 5)	Wed., May 10	<i>Bugle</i> deadline
Sun., Apr. 30	Spring Tree Walk, 1–3 pm, meet at Penn Place (p 3); Art at Penn Place, Meet-the-Artist reception, Tammi Trocki, Penn Place Gallery, 2–5 pm (p 6); Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm (p 2)	Sat., May 13	Arboretum Committee Earth Day project: Porcupine Woods cleanup, 10 am (see p 3); Shred-It event, 2–5 pm, Penn Place (p 6)
Mon., May 1	Voting for town election, Post Office lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm (see candidates' statements, pp 6–9)	Thurs., May 18	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
		Fri., May 19	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby
		Sat., May 20	GIVES, Farmer's Market, 9 am–12 pm; Progressive Dinner, 6 pm

Council Notes

This month's coverage of the Town Council meeting is brought to you by a neophyte substitute reporter, as your usual intrepid correspondent could not make the meeting. Being an economist by training, a profession not known for its literary skills, the substitute begs your forgiveness if the cadence of the report plods along.

The meeting began promptly at 7:30 pm, with five citizens in the audience including your reporter. The agenda being speedily approved, business moved on to citizen reports. Marian Green was called upon to make a presentation about the Garrett Park archives. The paid part-time archivist is leaving because she has found a full-time job (labor markets must be tightening!), and a search is underway for a replacement. A farewell party was scheduled for her, but that

was to occur on April 14, before this edition of the *Bugle* hits the stands. Several members of the Council and audience members expressed thanks for her service, as well as praise for the archives in general.

The next agenda item concerned a demolition request, for the house at 10915 Kenilworth Avenue. Councilmember Chantry explained that she met with the town's Historic Preservation Committee to hear the request of the builder. He noted that, although the house is located in the historic district, the property itself was deemed a "noncontributing property." Without personally knowing the house in question, your reporter surmises that this is a very polite way of saying that the house had no architectural interest (OK, even that is putting it politely, but I will leave it to read-

(continued next page)

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ers to insert whatever terminology they prefer). Therefore, the town’s Historic Preservation committee saw no grounds on which it could oppose demolition, and voted accordingly. Furthermore, the demolition had already been approved by the County Historic Trust. Councilmember Chantry noted sadly that the Town Council has only an advisory role in such cases, which was echoed by various citizens in the audience. The Council approved the request unanimously.

Despite the unanimity of the decision, the case did prompt a broader discussion among Councilmembers and with the audience about what might be done in the future to minimize demolitions. Dick Pratt suggested that the time has come to extend the definition of historic properties to mid-20th century. (Your reporter notes with some distress that furniture and other items he knows well from his childhood are now auctioned at high prices by the likes of Sotheby’s as “mid-century modern” antiques.) Broad support for this general policy direction was voiced, but exactly how the town might proceed was a bit uncertain since it involves inevitably conflicting desires to pursue historical preservation and exercise private property rights. There were some suggestions from audience members of zoning and setback rule changes, or conservation easements. Councilmember Wegner also noted that demolition/rebuilding reduces the size diversity of town properties, long a favorable aspect of the town. No doubt these broader, difficult questions will be with us for some time.

Next, Gene Swearingen made his monthly Town Manager’s report (some of which may be covered in his regular column in the *Bugle*). He began by mentioning that, in case anyone had not noticed, with the advent of warm weather, the State Highway Authority had shown up that very day to replace the temporary patches on Strathmore Avenue with a fully repaved road. The gist of his report was that town revenue is in fine shape, and expenditures are below budget (music to the ears of an economist). The town is repainting some town crosswalks and speed bumps, and some tree work is underway. The general survey

of the town is now completed, and the surveyors will send the results to the town government shortly. The new Web site is up and fully functional, with generally positive feedback.

Gene’s report was the final item on the agenda, and the meeting adjourned at 8 pm. Economists like efficiency, and this meeting was a paragon thereof.

Ed Lincoln

2017 Musicale

Everyone is invited to the 21st Garrett Park Musicale, which will take place on Sunday, April 30, at 4 pm at the Town Hall. This program for all music lovers benefits the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship (now part of the Garrett Park Community Fund), which supports a year of private music lessons for a budding musician at Garrett Park Elementary School.

This annual event always features a wide array of music and musicians, with something for everyone. So please come by to support your local musicians, and have some fun!

Labyrinth Journeys

Don’t miss a special (free!) presentation by the Garrett Park Film Society of *Labyrinth Journeys*, a documentary film by Cintia Cabib, on Sunday, April 23, at 3:30 pm at the Town Hall. The film features Garrett Park’s own labyrinth, created by Vickie and Martin Baily, as well as six others. The film provides a history of labyrinths, their uses, and stories of people who walk labyrinths in search of healing, mindfulness, or spiritual awareness.

Running 26 minutes, the film will be followed by discussion with the director, Cintia Cabib, and Vickie Baily. All are welcome. Food and drinks will be served.

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~ Garrett Park resident ~



The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Town Manager Notes

Election day. Mark your calendar for Monday, May 1, 2017. Please remember to vote! Three seats for two-year terms are available on the Town Council. Candidates for those three seats are Bill Elwood, Mike Grieb, Stephen Paczkowski, Phil Schulp, and Joanna Welch (see pp 6–9). Voting will take place at the Post Office from 7 am until 7:30 pm.

The Candidates Forum will be on Wednesday, April 26, at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The FY 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets were adopted at the March 13 Town Council meeting. The budget is available on the town Web site. The FY 2018 budget leaves the real property tax rate unchanged at 21¢ per \$100 of value and the personal and corporate property tax unchanged at \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The refuse collection fee has been reduced to \$330 per household.

Reminder regarding permits. If you are planning to do any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit is required whenever you plan to build a new structure, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. To save time, it's a good idea to complete your Garrett Park permit and submission of plats and drawings before requesting a county permit.

Reminders: Yard waste collection. Yard waste is collected every Monday now through the end of October. Use paper bags for yard waste; no plastic, please! Don't forget to bundle brush.

If you have branches too large to bundle for yard waste collection, bring them to the curb, butt-end facing the street; the maintenance staff will come by and chip them.

Also remember that bamboo cannot be chipped—it jams the chipper and sends out dangerous shards. Please cut it up into 4-foot lengths and either bundle or bag it for regular yard waste collection on Mondays.

If you have any questions about town services, please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Arboretum News

One of the attributes that makes Garrett Park a truly unique community is the fact that our town is a livable arboretum. Garrett Park strives to provide a beautiful and varied canopy of species throughout town through working with our town arborist, Phil Normandy, and the Arboretum Committee, a group of neighbors who volunteer to assist in the management, selection, and placement of new trees, as well as necessary removals.

Please join the Arboretum Committee as we sponsor our annual Spring Tree Walk on April 30. We will gather for the tree walk at the Post Office at 1 pm, and with Phil Normandy as our guide, walk around town and view some of the town's more notable additions, which by that date will hopefully be leafing out and exhibiting their new spring green crowns. Additionally, the Arboretum Committee is sponsoring an Earth Day Project on May 13. Please join us at 10 am on that date as we work to clean up unwanted weeds and invasive species around the newly planted trees in Porcupine Woods.

Michael Spekter, Chair,
Arboretum Committee

Townwide Yard Sale Is Coming

Mark your calendars for Garrett Park's (now annual) spring yard sale on Saturday, May 6, from 8 am to 1 pm.

Participation is free. Send an e-mail to Todd@ToddHarrisHomes.com with your name, location, and items being sold. Maps of the participants' locations and types of items being sold at each location will be available outside of 10909 Kenilworth Avenue the day of the yard sale. Directional signs will be provided throughout the neighborhood to help people navigate the yard sale.

Get excited and start your spring cleaning now to round up items for the yard sale! Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Park are also having a yard sale the same day.



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Citizens Association Notes

It's been a busy month for the Citizens Association. We started out the month with our Town Council nominations. Five folks threw their hats in the ring for this year's Town Council seats. You can read their statements in this month's *Bugle* (pp 6–9). The nominations were followed by a meet and greet with the CA. Those in attendance had lots of great ideas for future CA events, including seminars from local scientists, tree walks and house tours, Oktoberfest BeerBQ, kids movie night, town archives open house, and family game nights—all great ideas, but we need you, our friends and neighbors, to give us feedback and get involved!

Dozens of kids participated in the Second Annual Garrett Park Easter Egg Hunt. The weather was perfect, we were able to hide around 600 to 700 eggs, and we had a great turnout of “egg hunters.” It appeared all of the kids went home with baskets full of eggs, candy, stickers, and other fun items.

Finally, Kate Fritz from the Garrett Park PTA gave us an update on the recent developments with the WJ cluster and the current Work Group considering what a reopened Woodward High School would look like. The meeting was, unfortunately, short notice because we just found out that there was to be a community meeting at WJHS on April 18, when all interested parties (not just folks from Garrett Park) would have the opportunity to provide their opinion on the approaches being considered for Woodward HS. In summary, many of our schools are already overcrowded, with Walter Johnson predicted to be overcrowded by nearly 700 students in 2022. The Board of Education has recommended reopening Woodward as the most viable solution, but what that would look like, including where each high school would draw students from, is still up in the air. If you have young children or care about property values, this is something you should watch. All the presentations and enrollment data are available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx.

Upcoming events. The Town Council Candidates Forum will be held on Wednesday, April

26, at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Meet the candidates for Town Council. Opening statements from the candidates for Town Council will be followed by a question and answer session.

Save the date. Attention wine lovers! The CA is hosting a wine tasting on June 10 from 7:30 to 10:30 pm; details will be forthcoming.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Darshini Trivedi or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2017 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi.

From the Garrett Park Archives

If you owned property in Garrett Park in 1904, the Health Officer, C. B. Sornborger, could require you to remove certain weeds from your lot. If, like Mrs. Elizabeth A. Trussler, you did not, you would receive a bill for such removal of this “nuisance and menace to health and property.” In Mrs. Tressler’s case, it was one dollar per lot.

Marian Green

Need Plants?

Gardeners and anyone who loves plants won’t want to miss the Bethesda Community Garden Club’s annual plant sale on Thursday, May 11, from 7 am to 1 pm. Find wonderful buys on a large selection of locally grown plants at the sale (for cash or check only), to be held at the Bethesda Farm Women’s Market, 7155 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda. Plentiful metered parking is available in the lot behind the market.

For more information about the club and the sale, go to www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org. Many of the plants to be offered at the sale are grown right here in Garrett Park!

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GPFS Presents *Harvey* April 28

On Friday, April 28, at 8 pm, the GP Film Society presents *Harvey* (1950), the classic film starring James Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd, a middle-aged, eccentric man whose best friend, Harvey, is an invisible, six-foot rabbit. This gentle comedy is among AFI's 100 best movie comedies ever and is sponsored by Henri and Chris Keller.

As always, dinner and drinks will be served at 7 pm. Menu is still to be determined. Look for details on the garrettparkneighbors list, or at the Post Office the week before. Cost for dinner is \$10 per person. Cost of drinks (water, soda, beer, and wine) ranges from \$1 to \$5. Admission to the film is free to GPFS members and \$5 per person for nonmembers.

See you at the Town Hall!

Greening Report

This month's green banner is sponsored by Nguyen Minh Chau ("Chau"), in honor of her granddaughter, Emily Lan Anh Nguyen, who is a third-generation Garrett Parker, born to a second-generation Garrett Parker, Duc Nguyen. Emily's grandparents, Nguyen Minh Chau and Nguyen Nhan, have resided in Garrett Park since 1971. Emily attended Garrett Park Elementary School. After graduating from JEB Stuart High School in Fairfax, Virginia, Emily is now in her second year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Many thanks to you, Chau, and to Emily for inspiring her grandmother!

In the coming months, we will also be acknowledging other sponsors, whose contributions will cover the green banner through July. Thanks, everyone, for the great response.

If anyone else would like to support the Citizens Association with contributions of any kind, including dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address), please make out a check to the Citizens Association with a note in the memo line explaining what it is for, and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. We'd be most grateful.

GP-CAN Notes

The Garrett Park Conservation Action Network (GP-CAN) has launched into its 10th year with high hopes, a mighty mission, and a whirlwind of excitement. All our meetings are open to GP residents and friends, so please join us anytime, and bring your neighbors (big thanks to Beth Irons and Taku for hosting our last meeting).

We are exploring some new ideas for reducing energy consumption in the town, including the possibility of financial incentive programs that may be available to us. We are especially excited to be gathering ideas in preparation for the upcoming Town Hall renovations, to help identify some energy and money-saving features. We are also exploring ways to make recycling and composting more convenient and efficient for the town.

Now is the time to start putting our thinking caps on for an annual event for town kids to help engage them in conservation activities—maybe an environmentally themed July 4th event? Art at Penn Place? Come to our next meeting with your ideas and a bit of elbow grease, and let's work together to grow our good ideas into successes! The next meeting will be Monday, May 8, at 7:30 pm at the home of Joanne Schmader on Kenilworth Avenue. For more information, contact Jen Sass.

All Garrett Park residents are invited:

Neighborhood Spring Fling!

An annual celebration honoring our neighbors who are 70 years of age and over

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Sunday, June 11, 2 to 4 pm

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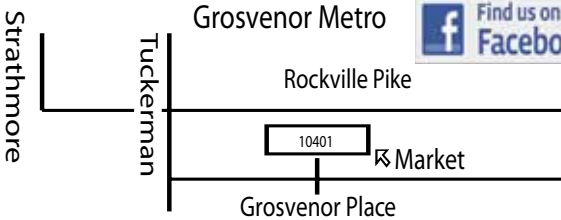
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Art at Penn Place

What a wonderful time we had at the Penn Place Gallery Invitational Opening! Every inch of the gallery was filled with enthusiastic artists and friends enjoying the amazing art and the delicious food prepared by Black Market Bistro. Photographs of the Invitational exhibit are available on the gallery Facebook page at “Art at Penn Place.”

Congratulations to Andrew Wohl, for winning “Best-in-Show” for his photograph, “Dying Tulips.” Congratulations also to Joan Maps Ducore, who won second place for her graphite drawing, “Pussy Willows (Salix Discolor),” and to Judith Prevo, who took third place for her painting, “Stormy, Stormy Sea.” All 22 artists chosen to show at the Invitational received praise for their outstanding work. If you missed the opening celebration, be sure to stop by the gallery any day of the week until April 22 to view this special exhibit.

Our May artist is Garrett Park’s Tammy Trocki. Tammy began photography in the days of film and the black and white darkroom. She was fascinated by the way photography allowed her to explore the visual world and bring her own interpretation to it.

Tammy studied photography in college, and later took numerous independent workshops at Washington Photo Safari, as well as completing a professional program at the Washington School of Photography. She is currently a member of the North Bethesda Camera Club.

In addition to her own photography, Tammy does photo restoration for clients, bringing damaged but treasured pictures back to life.

Be sure to stop by the gallery to see Tammy’s exhibit from April 24 to May 20, and please note that Tammy’s Meet-the-Artist reception will be scheduled from 2 to 5 on April 30 to give guests who are attending the 4 pm Musicale an opportunity to attend both events. See you there!

Shred-It Event in May

Todd Harris Homes will be hosting a free shred-it event Saturday, May 13, from 2 to 5 pm at Penn Place (please, no businesses). There will be a limit of five copier size boxes of paper per vehicle. All documents will be shredded on site in a mobile shredding truck. Send any questions to Todd@ToddHarrisHomes.com or call 301-455-5440. Another shred-it event is planned in the fall.

Candidates’ Statements

The following statements were received from the candidates for Town Council.

Bill Elwood

We’re neighbors! I’ve been in the Loeb’s old house just short of 14 years! I’ve been the voluntary “GP Christmas elf” at our post office for 10 years, handing you parcels on Saturdays so our USPS employees can serve you yet get home at a reasonable hour.

I chaired our Arboretum Committee to remove and replace our loved-yet-lethal tulip poplars on Keswick. It took time, but we agreed on specimens that satisfied neighbors who wanted replacements and those who decided that they wanted no trees at all! It’s an honor and privilege to serve others; now I’d like to serve you!

I work at NIH, where I run an initiative that involves the NIH Director, Institute Directors, fluctuating budgets, scientific ideas, and competing priorities.

I serve on the Montgomery County Grants Advisory Group, which advises the MoCo Council on community and economic development, education, health and human services, and recreation programs.

I chaired a Traffic Abatement Committee in the 1990s and worked with neighbors, city and town governments, and EMS to lower speed limits and install multiple stop signs to slow and

reduce traffic on a street children regularly used on their way to school.

Now I hope to put my skills to work for our hometown! How?

Restore Town Hall. We use it so much it needs repair and a makeover. We can help finance restoration by renting it in new ways when we’re not using it—like a venue for weddings and family reunions.

Continue our trajectory of collegiality. Future GP archivists may compare our sidewalk issues to the 19th century and indoor plumbing! Things are better now. I’d continue to encourage respectful opinion-sharing and negotiation to reach solutions that have something for everyone.

Elbert Chang, DDS, MS

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Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

Decide with data and citizen input. My mail-carrier father taught me to get as much information as possible to make the best-informed decision. Data and information aren't just statistics and revenue. It also comes from your ideas, input, and viewpoints.

Some decisions are self-evident; others, unexpected. What's important is to gather information, discuss it, and collaborate with each other. Because it's not just architecture and trees that make Garrett Park special; it's also how we treat one another. That's how I see myself as your Town Councilmember. If that sounds good to you, please vote for me. If you need to talk more, let's talk:

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10700 Shelley Court

Michael A. Grieb

I am running for a seat on the Garrett Park Town Council in the May 1 election and I am requesting your support.

I reside at 4705 Strathmore Avenue on the northwest corner of Strathmore and Montrose Avenues. I am a native of Washington, DC, and have been a resident of Garrett Park since 1991. I have lived here longer than any other prior residence. My wife Gina and I have lived here more than 25 years and raised our son Matthew here. Gina is the daughter of Raymond Agricola, who moved to 4609 Strathmore Avenue in 1954 and lived there until 2002. She grew up in the house, which is directly across the street from where we reside now.

I have never run for public office before but I recently was approached by friends and neighbors who requested that I consider doing so. Although I have been a political activist over time, I have focused primarily on national issues absent a brief stint as Secretary of the Citizens Association. I have worked extensively with Common Cause in the past and ran for delegate

on the ballot in the 8th congressional district in Senator John Edwards' ill-fated campaign for the presidency in 2008.

I am running for the Council now because I fear we are in danger of losing what makes Garrett Park unique. It appears to me that the town's bitter division over the issue of building new sidewalks threatens to permanently divide the town. I believe it is a moot point that the sidewalks should be built and I support their being built. However, I do believe that the town should use the grant money wisely, stay within budget, and repair existing sidewalks that are already damaged first (if for no other reason than reducing the potential liability from random slips and falls).

I am primarily concerned about life in Garrett Park beyond the sidewalks.

I find the town's physical plant and its environment have been allowed to deteriorate while the sidewalk matter festers and dominates all other issues facing us as a community. They include the reduction of the town's maintenance crew from three to two people with a corresponding reduction in services and cosmetic appearances; the deterioration of the Town Hall, which has made it harder and harder to use as a facility; the substandard plumbing at Penn Place, which has flooded the post office; and the need for a strict accounting of how the town's money and grant money are being utilized or not being utilized. These and other problems must be addressed by the new Council.

I spent most of my career attempting to solve problems and bringing people together. If elected, I would attempt to do so again. I am a retired Federal employee with 34 years of service, 17 with the Department of the Army. Although I was employed in different agencies, I primarily worked in all aspects of equal employment opportunity (EEO) law. I served as an EEO counselor, specialist, manager, and officer. I also wrote EEO case decisions and authored a chapter of the Army's EEO Complaint Regulation, AR 690-600. I served as the EEO Officer at Fort Meade for three years, reporting directly to the garrison commander. After retirement, I was in business as a professional tour guide for ten years.

I grew up in Washington, attended St. Anthony Catholic School in Brookland in Northeast, and graduated Mackin High School in the District. I graduated from the University of Maryland and attended George Washington University Law School and the Army Management Staff College.

In closing, I want to reiterate what a special place Garrett Park truly is and how lucky I was to find a home here. Although the town's population is getting younger (which is a good thing), I am still amazed at how many people have lived here for decades. As a tabula rasa, I have no agenda

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Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

other than to honorably serve the residents of Garrett Park. I promise not to duck the issues.

I again request your support on May 1.

Stephen Paczkowski

I am offering my services for Town Council in 2017, and I would be honored to have your vote in the May 1 election. I am not running with a set agenda, but instead because I feel I have expertise in many issues this town's government works on, paired with thoughtfulness that can serve the town well, especially on planning, infrastructure, and capital expenditure initiatives. I develop balanced views and am deliberative on complex issues. Using the sidewalks topic as an example, Garrett Park's beautiful 19th century plan was a main draw for me to this town. Many of our town's roadways look and feel less like suburban streets and more like country or village lanes, but on the flipside, while walking home in the street one night a few years back, I was nearly hit by an electric car I did not hear. My thought on the sidewalks is to do them well. In fact, as a member of the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee, I was one of the main proponents of decreasing the width of the proposed sidewalks and changing their coloring/surfacing to blend more with our town's streetscape. That kind of balanced thinking is what I offer toward projects like the sidewalks, Town Hall, and other parts of the Garrett Park environment we all cherish.

My family and I live on Strathmore Avenue toward the east of the town. My wife Chuan and I moved to Garrett Park in 2009. We added on to our house(hold) in two ways in 2012, as the elder of our two sons was born, and I designed an addition on to our originally very small house. A main factor in our son's naming was our desire to have his name tie to where he was born. Accordingly, in choosing his name, we were inspired by Garrett Park's streets borrowing placenames from Sir Walter Scott novels. Our second son was born in spring of 2015. We greatly enjoy Garrett Park as a place to raise a family, especially with the network of other young families and events/associations, like the Easter egg hunt, 4th of July parade, and the pool.

My education and professional experience will serve me well on many of Garrett Park's governmental topics. I am a licensed architect, with a bachelor's degree from Catholic University. I'm also a planner, with a master's in urban planning from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, one of the top rated programs for city/town management. In addition, I am a LEED accredited professional with experience managing multiple historic properties to green building certifications. My current work is architecture and planning in the hospitality industry. One of my main roles is capital expenditure planning

for full-service hotel and resort properties that are moving into a new chapter in their existence. Previously I worked for a high quality small firm in DC that specializes in historic preservation and sustainability. Before that I worked for firms in New York City and Northern Virginia that specialized in civic architecture/public/government projects.

I moved to town at about the time the Land Use Task Force was wrapping up its work. In 2011, a Councilmember asked me if I'd be willing to review the task force results as a relative newcomer to town who worked with such regulations professionally and had studied land use law. I agreed to help out, and put many hours into a presentation of the proposed regulations in a graphic format that was well received in a Citizens Association meeting. Volunteer work such as that, plus my four years on the Historic Preservation Committee, have given me familiarity with the town's regulations and issues that I can use as a background serving on the Town Council.

Perhaps one, small, semi-agenda at the end: even though I don't get out and exercise as often as I should, I am a big proponent of active recreation. I would like to see what we can do to make our open spaces an even greater benefit to the town than they already are.

If you like the way I think, and share the belief that my skills that could benefit the Council and town, vote for Stephen Paczkowski on the first day of May!

Phil Schulp (Incumbent)

I'm Phil Schulp and I would be honored to represent you for another term as a Garrett Park Councilmember. In serving on the Council, I have brought a real-world approach to problem solving. I ask for your vote on Monday, May 1, to continue serving and responding to your needs on this and other issues important to Garrett Park.

I've said it many times but I'll say it again. I believe that local government should be clear,

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Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

concise, and accountable to the citizens. This is especially important as our neighborhood school, Garrett Park Elementary (GPES), has grown to a regional school serving more students on the Rockville Pike corridor each year. My wife, Jean Horan (a para educator at Garrett Park ES) and I intently follow conversations about school overcrowding. The Council must continue monitoring MCPS decisions and providing input to ensure our safety, especially the safety of those living near the school.

Teamwork is important in any organization. It's essential on the Town Council, where open discussions must occur. I may not always agree with my fellow Councilmembers (nor they with me). As your representative, I respect the diverse opinions of my colleagues (and you, too), realizing that it's more important to work together for common good than for personal interest.

I have worked with fellow Councilmember Joanna Welch on the renovation of Wells Park in association with Montgomery County. With input from neighbors at a town meeting, we recommended playground equipment to the county. This cost is fully funded by County Park & Planning.

This term, I will facilitate the renovation project at the Town Hall, with your input every step of the way. Look for announcements convening an exploratory committee in May. I have spoken with several of you about ways to improve the amenities in the Town Hall, our town's main social center. Working together with you, the town staff and all organizations in Garrett Park, the Town Hall can retain its charm while better serving our needs. I'm very excited about this project and know that you are as well.

As Council liaison, I continue to provide guidance to the Garrett Park Swimming Pool Association. I'm also the liaison to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee (POSCO), which is in need of a new chairperson. Are you interested? Please e-mail me and let's discuss. We need to get this committee back on track.

As your neighbor, I always enjoy playing a behind-the-scenes role during July 4th parades—whether judging participants, sampling pies, or directing traffic on Strathmore Avenue. Together with Jean, I have delivered “goods” for the annual Progressive Dinner and Porches & Patios dine-arounds and worked with Bob Flanders (the pool's valuable resource) to evaluate and install energy-saving pool pump equipment. I've been a Garrett Parker since 2004, when Jean, our daughter (age 14 and an 8th grader at Tilden Middle School), and I moved to Garrett Park. I'm an avid

railroad fan, so our house on Cambria Avenue (next to the pool) is a perfect place to watch the more than 70 trains that roll by daily. In my day job, I also work in the rail industry (electrical engineer) for an international firm that builds passenger railroad cars.

I ask for your vote on May 1 and I look forward to continuing to represent your interests for the next two years. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at councilphil@garrettparkmd.gov if you'd like to share your views and interests as a resident of Garrett Park.

Joanna Welch (incumbent)

My family has called Garrett Park home since spring 2006. For the first four years, it was just Darren and me at 11111 Kenilworth Avenue. Our daughter joined us in 2010; our son in 2013—just three months before I was first honored with the chance to serve on the Town Council. I hope I've earned your confidence and your vote for a third term.

I take pride in the deliberative and slow-to-judge approach to decision-making that I think has been a hallmark of my tenure on the Council. I believe in withholding my judgment until I've heard from the various stakeholders on an issue. And I believe in keeping an open mind and allowing myself to be persuaded to a new viewpoint when circumstances change.

One thing that won't change is my commitment to making Garrett Park a stronger and more vibrant place when my time here ends (may that be another 40 years). But thinking about the future doesn't mean ignoring history. And Garrett Park has a wonderful history that many of us have worked hard to preserve. I've done my part by serving as liaison to the Land Use Committee, Garrett Park Nursery School, and the Archives Committee.

Should I be elected to serve another term,

- I will keep a watchful eye on the Safe Routes to School sidewalks project to ensure that it fulfills its goals of ensuring pedestrian safety and protecting the character and charm of the town;
- I will also continue to push for a speedy completion of the Wells Park renovation; and
- I will do my best to make sure Garrett Park is run as efficiently and responsibly as possible.

I'd appreciate your vote, and the chance to continue serving Garrett Park as a member of the Town Council.

Letter from the Mayor

Other duties as assigned.

One of the interesting aspects of being an elected or appointed official in Garrett Park is that your job description is very broad, and at any moment you could be called upon to react to the unexpected. Recently I was driving into town from Rockville Pike headed for Penn Place, when I encountered one of the backups due to the paving of Strathmore Avenue. We are very pleased that after we complained for years to the State Highway Administration about the inadequate substructure of Strathmore, which caused the pavement to subside, last fall SHA finally repaired the road base in the areas causing the problem. Because it was late in the season, SHA could only do temporary paving of the patches. So the total repaving in the spring, which we had been promised, was a welcome event.

As I approached the Kenilworth intersection, I saw that the paving machine had just passed and that the left turn toward most of the town was blocked. I asked the person who was directing traffic when the left turn would reopen, and he replied that it would take at least a half hour for the pavement to dry sufficiently. The paving machine, in the westbound lane, was moving toward Montrose. I said that the contractor could not close access to the next two roads as well, since it would prevent anyone from entering or exiting the town. He was not impressed.

As I approached the Montrose intersection, it was already closed in expectation of the paving machine reaching that spot, only minutes away. I was allowed to turn left onto Clermont and I immediately parked my car and walked back to the contractor staff person directing traffic there. I asked him whether Clermont would be closed as the paving machine reached that intersection. He replied that he did not know. I asked him to use his radio to check with a supervisor. He was unable to reach anyone who could answer the question.

Then a contractor truck approached, and we waved the driver down. I asked him if he knew the plans. He said only the job foreman would

know. I asked him to contact the foreman. After several minutes of him trying to reach the foreman and the paving machine moving past Montrose and approaching Clermont, I identified myself as the Mayor of the town and explained again why the three intersections could not all be blocked. He said that there was nothing he could do. I stated that I would be forced to cause the paving to stop if they could not assure me that the intersections would not all be blocked. He also was not impressed and drove off.

I called Gene and asked him to have the two town trucks come to the intersection so that we could block the paving machine. Shortly thereafter the arrival of the paving machine was imminent, so I went back to my car and drove into the path of the machine to stop it when it reached the intersection. Miraculously the foreman appeared within seconds. I explained the problem to him and he replied that drivers should use Keswick or go the wrong way on Raleigh to get to most of the town. I explained why that would not work. He said that I had to move the car, and I refused, hoping that the more substantial town trucks would arrive soon. They would be harder to push out of the way. I called Gene who said that the trucks were not immediately available. The situation reminded me of the 1960's and 70's when people blocked bulldozers and chained themselves to fences to stop development.

The foreman complained that if I did not move the car it would cost him a day of work. I replied that since the contractor had an inadequate traffic management plan that would be the price it would have to pay. Meanwhile the contractor's staff were photographing the car blocking the paving machine. A short while later Gene arrived. The foreman announced that he had directed that Kenilworth access be reopened. I asked Gene to let me know when it was actually open. A few minutes later Gene called to confirm that traffic could enter and exit the north side of town on Kenilworth. I moved my car and drove to the Town Office. I had to do some of the things that are on my job description.

Peter Benjamin